

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn) A neutralizable epitope of HGF (hepatocyte growth factor) having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32 or 33, which inhibits HGF from binding to a receptor thereof.
2. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide encoding the neutralizable epitope of claim 1.
3. (Withdrawn) The polynucleotide of claim 2, which has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 34.
4. (Withdrawn) The polynucleotide of claim 2, which has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 35.
5. (Currently amended) An isolated neutralizing antibody which specifically binds to the neutralizable an epitope of claim 1 of hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) to inhibit the HGF from binding to a receptor of the HGF, the epitope being a polypeptide of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32 or 33.

6. (Currently amended): The isolated neutralizing antibody of claim 5, which is selected from the group consisting of a chimeric antibody, a monoclonal antibody and a humanized antibody.

7. (Currently amended): The isolated neutralizing antibody of claim 5, which comprises VH region having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 27 and VL region having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28.

8. (Currently amended): The isolated neutralizing antibody of claim 5, which comprises VH region having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and VL region having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30.

9. (Withdrawn) A method for preventing or treating a disease caused by the binding of HGF to a receptor thereof comprising administering the neutralizing antibody of claim 7 to a mammal.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein the disease is liver cancer, prostate cancer, colon cancer, breast cancer, brain cancer, skin cancer, malaria and Alzheimer's disease.